CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective

brokers, said prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for

5   collecting bids from said prospective buyers, bidders and brokers in response

to said offerings, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a broker profile for each prospective broker in a

computer-readable record, each broker profile containing one or more

entitlement definitions indicating allowable items which a broker may receive;

10   preparing one or more entitled offerings through filtering an available

items list according to said broker profiles such that said prepared entitled

offerings include only offerings for one or more items to which a broker is

allowed offers as defined by the prospective broker's entitlement definitions;

and

15   presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one

or more prospective brokers such that each broker may review his or her

entitled offerings.

2.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a broker

profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing an item category

20   parameter within said entitlement definitions.

3.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of providing a broker

profile with entitlement definitions comprises providing a broker location

parameter within said entitlement definitions.

4.   The method as set forth in Claim 2 wherein said step of preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to

5   receive offerings.

5.   The method as set forth in Claim 3 wherein said step of preparing one or more entitled offers comprises removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to

10   receive offerings.

6.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 wherein said step of presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one or more prospective brokers comprises presenting said entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.

15   7.   The method as set forth in Claim 1 further comprising the step of receiving one or more bids from said prospective brokers via a computer network.

8.   The method as set forth in Claim 7 wherein the step of receiving one or more bids comprises receiving bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

20   9.   A computer-readable medium containing computer executable program code for preparing and presenting entitled offerings to prospective brokers, said

prospective brokers including buyers and bidders, and for collecting bids from

said prospective buyers and brokers in response to said entitled offerings in a

computer network server, said computer program code causing said computer

network server to perform the steps of:

5   accessing a broker profile for each prospective broker in a

computer-readable record, each broker profile containing one or more

entitlement definitions indicating allowable items for which a broker may

receive offerings;

            preparing one or more entitled offerings through filtering an available

10   items list against said broker profiles such that resulting entitled offerings

include only one or more items for which a broker is allowed to receive

offerings as defined by the prospective broker's entitlement definitions; and

            presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one

or more prospective brokers such that each broker may review his or her

15   entitled offerings.

        10.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program

code for providing a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises

computer program code for providing an item category parameter within said

entitlement definitions.

20   11.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program

code for providing a broker profile with entitlement definitions comprises

program code for providing a broker location parameter within said

entitlement definitions.

12.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 10 wherein said program

code for preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for

5   removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a

category parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a

minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

13.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 11 wherein said program

code for preparing one or more entitled offerings comprises program code for

10   removing items from said available items list which are unmatched by a

broker location parameter within a broker entitlement definition to produce a

minimized list of items for which a broker is entitled to receive offerings.

14.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 wherein said program

code for presenting via a computer user interface said entitled offerings to one

15   or more prospective brokers comprises program code for presenting said

entitled offerings via a web browser user interface.

15.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 9 further comprising

program code for receiving one or more bids from said prospective brokers via

a computer network.

20   16.   The computer-readable medium as set forth in Claim 15 wherein said program

code for receiving one or more bids comprises program code for receiving

bids via a computer network from a web browser system.

17.   An offering system in a computer network for preparing and presenting

entitled offerings to brokers, buyers and bidders, herinafter collectively

referred to as "brokers", said computer network enabling communications

between said sales offering system and broker consoles, said offering system

5   comprising:

a database containing entitled sales offerings, said database accessible

and queriable by network application servers;

an entitled offering preparation server for preparing entitled offerings

through filtering lists of available items against broker entitlement parameters

10   to produce entitled offerings including one or more items to which a broker is

entitled to bid, and for storing entitled sales offerings in said database; and

a network application server for providing sales offerings to broker

console computers.

18.   The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application

15   server is an Internet server.

19.   The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application

server is a Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTP) server.

20.   The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application

server is a secure Hyper Text Transfer Protocol (HTTPS) server.

20   21.   The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein said network application

server is adapted for communications with broker console computers which

are web browser devices.

22.   The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein entitled sales offering

        preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker

        entitlement parameters including a broker location parameter.

23.   The offering system as set forth in Claim 17 wherein entitled sales offering

5   preparation server is adapted to filter lists of available items by broker

        entitlement parameters including an item category parameter.